tal waters, dredging and under water blasting in and around coral formations, etc.

Certain coral-rich areas have also been declared as Marine National Parks by the concerned State Governments. These are the Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, Wandoor in Andaman Islands. The State Governments are also intensifying patrolling, prevention and detection measures and persuading the concerned industry to stop the use of corals for construction and other purposes.

**Wild Life Sanctuary in Assam**

3600. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orang Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam is facing severe danger due to allotment of lands; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No Sir. No such report has been received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

**Ecological Imbalance**

3601. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the likely ecological imbalance in the area due to the Piparwar Open Cast Coal Mine Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The Environment Management Plan prepared by the Project Authorities indicates that the proposed coal mine project is not likely to cause any significant ecological imbalance provided implementation of the measures suggested therein is ensured.

**Ever Green Forests of Western Ghats**

3602. SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that every year five per cent of the ever green forsts of Western Ghats are being destroyed due to felling of forests;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the detailed vegetation maps of Western Ghats being developed by the scientists in Pondicherry;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon;

(d) whether Government conducted any survey into the forest destruction there; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the ever green forests of Western Ghats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No. Sir. The comparison of two assessments of vegetation cover based on satellite imageries for the period 1985-87 and 1987-89, shows no significant decrease in the forest cover of the States comprising Western Ghats;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The steps taken to protect ever green forests of Western Ghats are :

(i) Enactment and strict implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(ii) Assisting State Governments and providing infrastructure for implementation of Central and State Forest Laws.

(iii) Planning Commission makes special provision for the Western Ghat areas under the Scheme "Integrated Development of Western Ghats".